

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kazuo KOBAYASHI et al  
Title: ENDO- $\beta$ -N-ACETYLGALACTOSAMINIDASE GENE  
Appl. No.: Unassigned  
Filing Date: November 22, 2000  
Examiner: Unassigned  
Art Unit: Unassigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the present Application, Applicants respectfully request that the above-identified application be amended as follows:

**In the Claims:**

Please amend the following claims:

Claim 5, line 1, delete "any one of claims 2 to 4" and insert

--Claim 2--.

Claim 7, line 1, delete "any one of claims 2 to 6" and insert

--Claim 2--.

Please add the following new claims:

- A1
10. The gene according to claim 3, wherein the gene is derived from a microorganism belonging to the genus *Mucor*.
11. The gene according to claim 4, wherein the gene is derived from a microorganism belonging to the genus *Mucor*.
12. A recombinant vector which comprises the gene according to claim 3.